

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject matter are respectfully requested. Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-25 and 28-36 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-25 and 28-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are rejected as being unpatentable over Polizzi et al (US 2002/0023158; hereinafter “Polizzi”) in view of Brendel et. al. (U.S. 5,774,660; hereinafter “Brendel”).

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 14 and 25 to improve clarity and further distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 14 and 25 should now be in condition for allowance. Further, claims 2-3, 5-13, 16-24 and 28-36 are dependent on independent claims 1, 14, and 25, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S.S.N 09/750,432

A8645

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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